

New Bedford 12th mo 23 1842

Dear Deborah,

There is a very clever fellow whose name is "Santa Claus" and who goes round visiting certain families, (I wish he visited every body) about this time, and as he undoubtedly will drop this in your stocking, hanging at the foot of your bed, I shall send it by him, telling him to wish you all a "merry Xmas". Your letter came just in the nick of time - I was particularly glad to hear from you. The last three weeks I have been to use a sailors phrase under the weather. You now any one else would ever have doubted my sympathy for the Ethiopian, had you seen me, such thick lips, and such an expansive nasal organ had I. I thought myself a lineal descendant of Job - I was "blind", not all over like him, from head to foot, for he could wear only Adam's Uniform, while my affliction was confined to my face alone. I was shut up in the House two weeks, one of which I

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31, 32

I suffered very much - I had a large "Boil" ^{and then} inside of my nose, and inside of my mouth at the same time - I could hardly breathe eat or sleep - it was a slight touch of the torments of the damned, I can well assure ^{you}. However I am now much better and am writing this at the Mill - I presume in the end it will be beneficial - Joey has had a very bad cold and has come down today for the first time for a week. Thornton is just getting over a cold also, the rest are as well as usual - Sarah Ann is gradually failing in her strength though her spirits are remarkably cheerful. She sits up several hours during the day. Her tenacity of life is the strongest of any one I ever knew - I don't see how she can live much longer and yet a year ago this very day we thought she was dying, and no chance for her to live, and yet she is still here, a truly living skeleton. Fortunately Mary Briggs, is and has been here some time which makes it much easier for their Mother. Daniel's family are all well - they received a letter from Arthur

about ten days since - he wrote that he had
enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and
was never so well in his life. All the rest
of your friends are well - Capt Thos R Rodman
left last week to join his Regiment the 38th.
He was much better and felt it his duty
to go - He may possibly be able to endure the
hardships of military life, but I question it.
Mr Logan Rodman has been Commissioner
Lieut Col in the same Regiment - New Bedford
is well represented in this war by Col Maggi
of 33^d - Col Ingraham & Lieut Col Rodman &
Capt Thos R Rodman of 38th Col Madry of
New York 99th - Brig Genl R A Pierce at Readville
who is lawyer here & an excellent fellow
a good Abolitionist & has been - with several
Capt. and Lieutants - Col Bates of Weymouth
(formerly Maggi's Major) has proved himself a
brave officer in the last sanguinary battle
at Fredericksburg - Well may the People exclaim
"Quosque tandem abutere nostra patientia",
how far will thou abuse our patience,
"O Low pressure Abraham" Either a weakness
or a dogged obstinacy bedevils his Moral vision

Why cant he see that God has always been an
abolitionist, giving man his rights in his
first existence, and proclaiming Liberty
throughout the land unto the inhabitants
thereof - He may do better than the man who
took a two miles start to jump over the moun-
tain - His legs are long & I know, but I fear
he will fall astraddle of the mountain
and will stop to split Rails (Chop logic) there.
My faith is in God who will over Rule all things.
I was quite well acquainted with the A. B. Hall
and regret his loss - His I must I admire - Our
Lyceum lectures thus far have all been
imbued with Anti Slavery doctrine - Mr
Robersons death is a great loss to this community.
I was confined & unable to attend the funeral.
Mr Potter preached a most excellent sermon
the Sunday following, which I trust will be
printed - the family have it under consideration.
In his sermon he quoted Garvins faithful tribute
to his memory - I have not as yet heard any
thing particular what the family will do, but
presume Mr R will keep the House - she has
proved herself an excellent wife in every respect.

Ms. A. G. 2.31.32

12/23/62

Ms. A. 9. 2. 3. 1. 32

How true is your remark "when old friends are taken, ~~away~~ it brings us nearer to those who are left" - What great changes have taken place, since we first knew each other - In looking out of the front window, while confined at home, it seemed as though a different class of people passed thereby - Hardly one of those old familiar faces so dear to you and me were to be seen - they indeed were truly like angels visits few and far between - Strangers have taken the places of our friends, and yet those dear friends live in our memories; then let us cherish all that good, the dignity that belonged to them, and reject the bad, so that we ourselves and all future generations may be benefitted thereby. What a wise provision of Nature is it that these changes are so gradual, may sometimes almost imperceptible - When we stop to reflect it shows how transient are all worldly things, and that principles alone are immortal, and that God inhabits

Eternity. How Glad we shall all be to see
you when you make that long promised
visit. You must come before long. I want
to see you very much. Many things I can
tell you, which I cannot write. Joey
will not probably stay in the Mill much
longer. The work is too hard for him, and
there is not much chance for any great
development of mind. I have spoken
to several friends who are looking out
for a place in some Country Room. He
is trustworthy, honest faithful and has
done admirably. Always at home on the
evening & never missed a day for more than
a year, always down in the morning too. He
I saw Mr Mendall the other day and inform-
ed him of my having received your letter. He
seemed in good spirits, said he should like
to see you & "talk abolition with you". I must
now close. So write me soon. Many units
in sending love to all. Shall you go to
Anti Slavery Festival. I have never been yet.
I have tried to go several times but was prevented.
I shall not try again, I may go. Yrs truly Joseph Ricketson